

**Slovenia: Communists leader resigns**

**BUCHAREST (R)** — The new Romanian government's chief Minister, Silvia Brancu, yesterday named yesterday in a further show of diversity among leaders who took power after the December overthrow of the Communists' dictatorship. Chilling public safety, he said he was leaving because Romanian politics had become "dominated by personal ambition, corruption and political flimflam." Brancu, 75, widely distrusted by ideologues who regard him as a veteran Communist and as aggressive and dogmatic, was the second senior leader of the ruling National Salvation Front to resign in less than two weeks. Vice-President Dumitru Micuquit, 66, had completed the new government had adopted Stalinist policies despite an avowed aim of leading Romania to democracy after four decades of communist command. A former ambassador to Washington and head of the country's financial state committee, Brancu has been one of Nicolae Ceausescu's most controversial figures since the overthrow and execution of President Nicolae Ceausescu seven weeks ago. Brancu also completed that two local publications were edited by someone who had "succeeded in manipulating students and intellectuals."

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**Tunis talks begin  
today on uprising**

**TUNIS (Petra)** — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem arrived here Sunday to take part in a meeting of an Arab League committee entrusted with dealing with means to support the Palestinian uprising. The meeting, which starts Monday evening, will discuss adopting a united Arab front in the face of dangers inherent in the influx of Jews to occupied Palestine and its consequences on the peace process. The meeting will also discuss ways to provide more aid to the Palestinian people in supporting their uprising against Israel's occupation. The Arab League Council held an extraordinary meeting in Tunis last November and decided to call the committee to resume its mission and resume contacts with world powers to support the Palestinian cause and help end Israel's oppressive actions in the occupied lands. The committee comprises the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq as well as the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department, and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibli.

**Mubarak sends  
urgent messages to  
Bush and Gorbachev**

**CAIRO (R)** — Egypt President Hosni Mubarak sent urgent messages to the superpower leaders Sunday about the dangers of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said. It said the messages to President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev also dealt with attempts to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said that a long-awaited meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States might be held next weekend on arranging Cairo talks on the future of the occupied territories. MENA said the messages outlined the "negative effects" which resettling Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would have.

**Iraqi leader meets  
Omani envoy**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — President Saddam Hussein discussed bilateral relations and other issues Sunday with Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, the Baghdad Radio reported. It gave no details. But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ben Abdullah was exploring the possibility of mediation in stalled peace talks between Iraq and Iran by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council.

**Police say 100  
kidnapped in  
Karachi**

**KARACHI (R)** — Rival student groups kidnapped more than 100 people in Karachi in the past 24 hours, police in Pakistan's largest city said Sunday. Most of those kidnapped were students and some were released after torture, police said. A Sind province government spokesman said most victims were supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and accused the militant Momin National Movement (MQM). MQM Chairman Azim Tarig leveled a counter-accusation at pro-Bhutto student groups. He told a news conference a large number of MQM student activists were kidnapped and some were released after being tortured. The kidnappers follow clashes in the province between native Sindhis and Mohajir immigrants which have killed 21 people since Tuesday. Most of the deaths were in Hyderabad, Sind's second-largest city.

**Sikh extremists  
gun down six**

**AMRITSAR, India (R)** — Sikh extremists held up a bus near Amritsar Sunday, pulled out and shot dead three police guards, then mowed down three of the fleeing passengers, police said. The Sikh holy city is the focus of an extremist campaign to create an independent Sikh nation in India's Punjab state. The campaign has claimed at least 200 lives this year alone.

## 10 killed in attack on Israeli bus in Egypt

**CAIRO (Agencies)** — Unknown assailants killed 10 people and wounded at least nine on an Israeli tour bus near Cairo Sunday, blocking the bus with their car then blasting it with grenades and machineguns.

The attack seemed certain to complicate efforts to arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Police said three or four attackers in a white Peugeot car swerved across the path of the bus on the Cairo-Sinai highway at about 6 p.m. (1500 GMT), forcing it to halt.

Samir Sultan, director of Heliopolis Hospital in northern Cairo, told reporters 10 of the 31 people on board were killed but it was not clear whether all the casualties were Israeli.

It was the most serious assault on Israelis in Egypt since 1985

when a deranged Egyptian soldier killed seven Israeli tourists on Ras Burka beach in Sinai.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Shimon Shamir said in a telephone interview that nine Israeli tourists

were hospitalized in a Cairo

He said the nine hospitalized

were the only Israelis involved in the attack who could be located so far.

There are reports of fatalities but all are premature and none can be confirmed, we still checking," Shamir said.

He meanwhile confirmed a statement he gave to the Israeli television in which he said that four passengers who were lightly injured were at Heliopolis Hospital, at the outskirts of Cairo.

Israel Radio also reported the

attack and cited "initial reports of casualties."

## Aoun-Geagea war rakes east Beirut

**BEIRUT (Agencies)** — Rebel General Michel Aoun's tank-led troops battled, often at point-blank range, with rivals Sunday in a two-pronged assault on the seashore headquarters of the Lebanese Forces militia headquarters in the Dibayeh area.

After the dawn assault, Geagea said the attack on the militia barracks at Dibayeh had been beaten off.

"What happened today in Dibayeh is a turning point. The attackers retreated," he said on Voice of Lebanon radio.

A Reuter correspondent at the scene said: "I can see burned and abandoned military vehicles on the highway. There is smoke rising from Lebanese barracks. Most buildings along the roads have been hit. Some have been turned black by flames and smoke."

He said it was then still unclear who had gained the upper hand.

Dibayeh straddles supply lines between the militia port of Jounieh and east Beirut.

East Beirut's church bells tolled earlier in the day in memory of the latest dead, but their mournful sound was buried by the thunder of exploding shells.

The sector's 500,000 residents experienced a day of unrelenting terror.

For 70 heart-stopping minutes shells, rockets, and mortar bombs poured into the city's battered streets at a rate of one a second. The air was filled with a thunderous roar and the ground shook.

The smell of gunpowder filled the air.

At the hospitals, the moans and screams of wounded and cries of bereaved relatives filled wards as doctors and nurses tried to save those with a chance of life.

"We see nothing... no buildings, no streets and no houses. We only see fires and black fumes rising above east Beirut," said east Beirut resident Janine Khoury, from heights above the city.

The fighting erupted on Wednesday when Aoun ordered the militia to surrender its arms and disarm in a bid to take control of the Christian enclave.

The International Committee of the Red Cross appealed for a two-hour mercy truce at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) to rush medical supplies from west Beirut across the dividing green line to hospitals in the Christian sector.

But one hour after the deadline, Red Cross officials told reporters that plans to send a seven-car convoy were called off because they could not obtain security guarantees.

Six earlier truce accords failed to stop the fighting, among the worst in the Christian sector since Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943.

Geagea declared: "This fighting has destroyed our homes, wrecked our factories, devastated our economy and shattered the fabric of our society."

"It's continuing because Aoun cannot yet accept the fact that the elimination of the Lebanese forces by force of arms is impossible."

Shells hit churches, hospitals, schools and apartment buildings.

## Deputies' 'poor' performance on the floor is due to 'lack of means'

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**JORDAN** — Members of the Lower House of Parliament describe the current stage in their parliamentary life as "a school" and ask officials and citizens who might have any criticism of their performance on the floor to show broad-mindedness and understanding of the problems faced by the deputies.

Citizens, observers and even officials generally criticise what they see as the inability of deputies to focus on the right issues at the right time, the lack of any research on the subjects they talk about and the methods of debate they use in their sessions.

"What is taking place now in Parliament is a school for everyone who live in Jordan... we are all learning (how to conduct democracy)," Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawar told the Jordan Times.

Although the deputies who

spoke to the Jordan Times admit that there were indications that "some" of the speakers during last week's session on the budget "were frittering with their constituents, or playing to the gallery, as some would say, the majority were sincere about presenting the public's problems to the government at the first possible opportunity," Kawar said.

But, Kawar said, "most of the attacks against the members of Parliament generalised the situation without any consideration for who did well and who did not."

Both Kawar and Mansour Murad, also an Amman Deputy, agree that the main cause behind criticism that the budget discussions "did not address the issue at hand" is the absence of political parties.

"In developed countries which have parliamentary systems, deputies are supported financially, administratively

and academically by a political party or individuals and institutions which believe in the cause of the respective deputy," Murad said.

"The problem here would be solved when political parties are formally established because as we can see from the current set-up in Parliament, only independents suffer from this problem," Kawar said.

But, according to the deputies, Parliament members are expected to support themselves and uphold their constituencies' demands on salaries of JD 500 a month.

"I am one of those deputies who are still unable to open an office because my salary will not cover the expenses... and I am not the only one; there are many like me," said Murad.

According to Murad, "our Parliament members are really enthusiastic but there are no financial provisions to complement this enthusiasm."

Although every committee

of the Lower House is furnished with a secretary, members of parliament still feel that this arrangement is not enough and cited the "poor" state of their speeches as examples.

"Most of the speeches were handwritten and not typed," said one deputy who asked not to be identified. He explained that deputies of the Legal Committee could not ask its secretary to type their speeches for the budget; and to employ a personal secretary is not feasible in light of their salaries.

A cabinet minister who did not wish to be identified told the Jordan Times that he understood the grievances of the deputies and described them as "justified," saying that the government should consider ways to reorganise and improve standards and working conditions for the deputies.

"We are now considering establishing pooling offices for the deputies if only to organise

## Slovenia splits from national party

**LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (Agencies)** — Slovenia's liberal Communists decided Sunday to pull out of the national Communist Party, further weakening the influence of Yugoslavia's ruling body. The leadership decision to reorganise as a social democratic-type party came at an emergency conference of the Communist Party of Slovenia, the most Western-oriented of Yugoslavia's six republics. Yugoslavia's League of Communists, as the federal party is officially known, "doesn't exist any more for us," said Peter Bohic, a member of the Slovenian party leadership. Slovenian Communist Party chief Civil Rihbic said his party was not seeking Slovenian secession but the establishment of a Yugoslav confederation in which central authority would be restricted even more than at present. "This is the end of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, in which Slovenian Communists had the status of an unrecognised minority," Rihbic told the Associated Press. The break also extended to the republic party's name.

## No new newspapers before national charter

**KUWAIT (Petra)** — No new newspapers will be licensed in Jordan prior to the creation of political parties which will be provided for in the proposed national charter, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin has been quoted as saying.

Only when the charter has been published and political parties are established can the ministry give licences for newspapers, provided a study has been made of the market's capacity for new newspapers, the minister said in an interview published yesterday in Al Siyassah newspaper.

## Israelis accused of torture

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)**

— The Israeli army said Sunday it would charge three soldiers who local media said were accused of beating a 13-year-old Palestinian and burning him with cigarettes.

An army spokesman declined to detail the charges beyond saying they involved a 13-year-old boy in the occupied West Bank. But he said military prosecutors would indict a junior officer, a sergeant and a private.

Israel Radio and the daily newspaper Davar said the three were accused of beating the boy and the private was alleged to have burned him with cigarettes.

The reports did not specify when and where the alleged offence occurred or under what circumstances.

The charges are the latest in a series of revelations about abuses by soldiers fighting the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Last month a reserve commander was relieved of duty after charges he gathered Arab residents in a West Bank village, threw a percussion grenade at them and then shot dead a man who fled.

Two members of the border police were suspended in January after television showed one had shot without warning and killed an unarmed youth.

Israeli authorities restored telephone service to the town of Ramallah early Sunday following army sweeps in the West Bank in which more than 100 Palestinians were arrested.

In Bethlehem, Palestinian sources said a 33-year-old man was shot and wounded while driving in the town Sunday.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said Mahmoud Abu Ghazala, 54, a member of a village council, was killed by a shot in the head. It was not clear who had shot him or if he was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

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## Iraq, Syria hold talks on Euphrates cutoff

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq and Syria were reported Sunday to have put aside their long-standing feud by holding meetings to discuss Turkey's cutoff of the Euphrates River.

The daily Al Anbaa, quoting Arab diplomatic sources, said Iraqi and Syrian officials held four meetings in Baghdad and Damascus over the past two weeks to "coordinate" their response.

The sources, who were not further identified, were quoted as saying the meetings represented a "positive development" for the future of relations between the two Arab countries.

The identities of government rank of the officials were not disclosed. There was no immediate reaction to the Kuwaiti report from either Iraq or Syria.

Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates water for a month, beginning Jan. 13, to fill the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern province.

## Kuwait urges Soviets to halt emigration to Israel

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The government called on the Soviet Union Sunday to take urgent measures to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, describing the process as a "flagrant aggression" against the Arabs.

A statement issued after the weekly cabinet session chaired by the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah, reminded Moscow of its close links with the Arab World.

It said failure to stem the emigration flow would cast doubt on the credibility of "the concerned parties" seeking to promote a Middle East settlement. These include the Soviet Union.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month he expected some 300,000 Soviet Jews to settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the next few years.

Moscow has recently relaxed some restrictions on the emigration of the Soviet Jews, while the United States has tightened its immigration regulations.

The Kuwaiti government followed with extreme concern the news of intensive emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, considering it a direct encouragement to the expansionist policies of the Israeli leadership and Zionist settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.

"While the cabinet denounces this tragic development, it calls on all international parties, foremost the Soviet Union, which maintains links of cooperation, friendship and common interests with the Arab World, to take urgent measures to halt this emigration which constitutes a flagrant aggression on the rights

The 2,300-kilometre Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before flowing into the Gulf.

The Turkish action triggered protests in Syria and Iraq, who fear damage to their agriculture and a worsening of international quarrels over scarce water resources.

Al Anbaa said that the overtures were started by Damascus when Syrian delegation visited Baghdad "to discuss taking a unified stand over the Euphrates issue."

The Kuwaiti daily said Baghdad and Damascus adopted as their blueprint a legal study by the late Salah Al Tazari of Syria on the rights of Iraq and Syria to the Euphrates waters.

Tazari was Syria's permanent delegate at the United Nations before he was chosen as a judge

at the International Court in the Hague.

"Though the discussions were confined to the Euphrates waters, they indicate an imminent improvement in relations between the two countries at a time when both Iraq and Syria are preparing for a period of domestic openness," the paper quoted one of its sources as saying.

That was a reference to a decision by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to introduce a new constitution that would provide for greater press freedom and the formation of new political parties.

There have also been unconfirmed reports in the Gulf Arab press that Syria is planning to open up economically with market-oriented reforms.

Among the most contentious issues dividing the two countries is the war in Lebanon. Iraq was supplying renegade Gen. Michel Aoun with weapons in his "war of liberation" against Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Also contributing to the feud was Syria's support for Iran in the eight-year Gulf war against Iraq.

## Ethiopia asks rebels to support peace moves

NAIROBI (R) — The Ethiopian government has called on rebels in northern areas to respond to its call for peace and warned them that it will step up military operations, if the appeal is ignored.

Addis Ababa Radio, monitored here Sunday, said: "We urge all opposition groups, including the Weyane, to respond positively to our call for peace." Weyane is the name of the government gives to the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which occupied large areas of northern Ethiopia.

The radio added that if the appeal was ignored, the government would reinforce its troops and militia now operating against the rebels.

Last week the Tigray rebels said they had killed more than 700 government troops in a battle in Wollo province.

of the Arab people of Palestinian and a serious danger to the future of the Arab Nation," he said.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry called for international action on the Soviet Jews issue, but did not mention the Soviet Union directly.

### Rabbi lifts flight ban

An Israeli chief Rabbi Sunday lifted for Soviet Jews a standing ban against air travel on the Jewish Sabbath.

Tel Aviv Rabbi Yona Metzger said the ruling by chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyah, one of two chief rabbis, holds that Jews may fly on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays if there is a fear their lives are in danger.

Metzger said Eliyah issued the religious ruling in answer to his question about a huge Soviet Jewish demand to emigrate.

Soviet Jews are moving to Israel at a rate of 5,000 a month.

"This isn't war, this isn't shooting, but there is a possibility that there are in danger or a fear of there perhaps being pogroms in various areas," Metzger told Reuters.

The chief rabbi's ruling said in places where there is a fear of mounting anti-Semitism to the point of pogroms... it is not only permissible to fly on the Sabbath but a religious duty."

Jews are not normally allowed to travel on the Sabbath which runs from Friday evening to Saturday night.

Israel says it wants emigration accelerated for fear that resurgent nationalism in the Soviet Union could lead to attacks on Jews or that Moscow's open-door policy could be revoked should President Gorbachev fall from power.

## Saudis suspend issuing visas in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Saudi Arabia's embassy has suspended issuing visas to Thais seeking employment in that nation after last week, said a Thai spokesman.

From a vantage point occupied by Aoun's gunners around the mountain resort of Baal Mez, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia he is trying to crush was seen putting up stiff resistance to his army's superior firepower.

Residents said the Christian half of the city, home to some 500,000 people, may indeed emerge a devastated ruin by the time his battle with arch Christian rival, LF leader Samir Geagea, is decided.

The battle Sunday stretched along a 10-kilometre front from the south eastern suburbs of Beirut to the northern suburb of Dbayeh.

Fighting raged between neighborhouds along a network of front lines established when fighting broke out after Aoun ordered Geagea's militia to disband.

Aoun's army heavily controls a strip of territory from Aoun's bunker beneath the presidential palace at Baabda in the south east of Dbayeh. It is trying to push the LF into the sea around the docks in the north west corner of east Beirut.

It was trying to advance along three main axes — from coastal Dbayeh in the north, towards Dora in the east and from Death River in the south.

Military sources said Sunday the army now held hills overlooking the tunnel and hoped to take it soon. Commandos had been sent down from the mountains to the southern approaches of Jounieh to cut off any LF reinforcements headed for the tunnel.

But there were reports that the LF was already receiving supplies by sea.

Military sources said Aoun's troops had made slow progress since Wednesday. As they advanced along main roads they were having to clear surrounding areas of militiamen, split into units of a dozen men each and adopting hit-and-run tactics.

Next to the port is the shell-

## Aoun's troops make slow progress in battle against Lebanese Forces

BEIT MERI, Lebanon (R) — General Michel Aoun is making slow progress in his bid to become absolute master of Lebanon's predominantly Christian enclave which has cost almost 200 lives in five days of savage fighting.

From a vantage point occupied by Aoun's gunners around the mountain resort of Baal Mez, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia he is trying to crush was seen putting up stiff resistance to his army's superior firepower.

Some 700 metres below, the deserted streets of east Beirut were swathed in black choking smoke from a dozen fires after a two-hour battle starting at dawn Sunday — the heaviest single bout of fighting since the war began Wednesday.

Shells and rockets pouted into and across the city, exploding at the rate of one a second for 70 minutes. The air was filled with a thunderous roar and the ground shook.

Entire blocks were lit up by the many fires or flashes from artillery — white air shells were fired and yellow when they exploded. The whole scene was illuminated by two gas tanks burning in the Dora district.

Aoun said at the height of a bout of fierce battles 10 months ago with his mainly Muslim adversaries in Syrian-controlled west Beirut that he was prepared

to see Beirut destroyed in pursuit of his aims.

Residents said the Christian half of the city, home to some 500,000 people, may indeed emerge a devastated ruin by the time his battle with arch Christian rival, LF leader Samir Geagea, is decided.

A multi-barrel rocket launcher at the HQ opens fire across the city to support militia units in trouble elsewhere. A stream of 122mm rockets was directed at Dbayeh, the army's north-western position within the enclave.

Troops in Dbayeh faced LF tanks and artillery guarding the tunnel at Dog River on the coastal highway leading to the militiamen held port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

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But there were reports that the LF was already receiving supplies by sea.

The army has also been gradually probing northwards along the coast road, in the Death River area. Scores of shells were exchanged between Death River and LF positions in nearby Dora, on the main route to Karantina.

Army gunners also rained fire on the residential district of Ashrafieh in the heart of east Beirut. Capture of Ashrafieh's hilltop Cecine Square would permit close-quarter shelling of militiamen headquarters at Karantina, where Geagea is believed to be directing operations from a bunker three floors below ground.

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Army gunners also rained fire on the residential district of Ashrafieh in the heart of east Beirut. Capture of Ashrafieh's hilltop Cecine Square would permit close-quarter shelling of militiamen headquarters at Karantina, where Geagea is believed to be directing operations from a bunker three floors below ground.

A multi-barrel rocket launcher at the HQ opens fire across the city to support militia units in trouble elsewhere. A stream of 122mm rockets was directed at Dbayeh, the army's north-western position within the enclave.

Troops in Dbayeh faced LF tanks and artillery guarding the tunnel at Dog River on the coastal highway leading to the militiamen held port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

Military sources said Sunday the army now held hills overlooking the tunnel and hoped to take it soon. Commandos had been sent down from the mountains to the southern approaches of Jounieh to cut off any LF reinforcements headed for the tunnel.

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## WFP to extend highlands project for five more years

AMMAN (J.T.) — Poor rainfall in Jordan, limited funds for projects, an increase in the population growth rate and unemployment have prompted the World Food Programme (WFP), which is affiliated to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to extend a project for the development of the highland agricultural regions of Jordan for five more years, according to agricultural engineer Saleh Eikour, the project director.

Eikour was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the WFP would spend \$25 million over the coming five years starting from April 1990 in extension to the development project, which has been going on for more than two decades.

The WFP assistance, Eikour said, will be in the form of flour, sugar, cooking oil, dates and dried milk assistance to the farmers whose lands are involved in the project.

WFP assistance to the highland agricultural regions in Jordan is now in its fourth phase and the new plans entail reclaiming 150,000 dunams of land, Eikour said. He said that the project entails removing stones, planting fruit trees, building stone and barbed wire fences, drilling artesian wells and roads.

For the first time in the project's history, domestic animals will be brought to be raised around the homes of farmers in the rural regions which will also be grown with animal feed, especially in the first three years, to involve women in husbandry work and to collect manure to fertilise the fields and provide sufficient protein food for the

farmers' families, he added.

The new phase of the project, which is concentrated in the highland areas of Irbid, Jerash, Salt, Amman, Ajloun, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Maafraq, Tafith and Maan, is expected to benefit small farmers.

"At least 7,500 poor farm households stand to benefit from it," according to Eikour.

The main aim of the project is to stop soil erosion and produce trees, according to Eikour.

According to WFP officials here, the food assistance would help compensate farmers for the temporary loss of income when they switch from wheat crop to fruit production.

### Requirements

Referring to the terms required for a farmer to be involved in such project, Eikour said the land should be well-marked plot and no less than four dunums in area, but not exceeding 50 dunums, and that annual rainfall on the land should not be less than 250 millimetres and should not have benefited from earlier development schemes.

But these preconditions could change depending on the WFP's plans and advice, he said.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture will issue regulations about these conditions soon, Eikour added.

According to WFP officials, earlier phases included the construction of windbreakers, farm buildings and cisterns. This time fodder crop will be planted as a pilot project in order to better integrate livestock raising with rain-fed farming.



Frosty weather has taken its toll on agricultural crops in the Jordan Valley, prompting the authorities to accelerate moves towards introducing an agricultural insurance scheme for farmers (J.T. photo).

## 'Regular' platefuls end 'food strike' at hospital

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — "A 'food strike' at one of Amman's largest hospitals appeared to have ended Sunday after the authorities met the employee's demands for remuneration of better quality food and "regular" portions.

"It seems that the management has agreed to reverse its decision about the food served to the staff and patients because today the menu was better than last Thursday," when the issue triggered employees' protest action, said a doctor working at Al Bashir government hospital.

The doctor was one of the few who trickled into the hospital cafeteria Sunday evening after staying away for three days in a protest against the reduction in the quantity of food. Almost the entire staff were reported to have staged a hunger strike Friday.

According to a management source at the hospital, "there is no problem anymore; everything has been settled."

The strike was triggered when employees noticed a "sizeable decrease" in the quantity of the meals served to them on Thursday, several doctors at the hospital said.

According to information available to the Jordan Times, the reduction in quantity came after a contract between a catering company and the Al Bashir Hospital ended Jan. 31, and the National Medical Institution (NMI) assumed direct control of the staff's cafeteria, which serves over 800 meals every day to the hospital's doctors, nurses and general staff.

Under the terms of a new contract, the original contractor, Wecare, is now in charge of preparing and serving food; the "basic products" are supplied by the NMI. The previous contract had assigned the total catering operations to Wecare.

"Now the National Medical Institution is in charge of catering, and another company is involved," said two doctors who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. However, the food was described by many staff members as of low quality and little until Sunday evening.

"This evening it is better," said one of the doctors. "The quality is good and the quantity served is also almost normal," he said.

No authoritative spokesman for Wecare was available for comment.

However, one of its staff at the cafeteria asserted that

"only a few of the hospital employees had stayed away." But this was immediately challenged by several members of the staff who said "everybody showed solidarity and boycotted the cafeteria."

Explaining the reasons behind the NMI's original decision to reduce the quantity of food served at Al Bashir Hospital, an NMI source said that earlier it used to cost JD 1.40 per meal at the hospital, "but now with the devaluation of the dinar by over 40 per cent and rising food prices the same meal is costing JD 2.80."

According to a source close to the dispute, "obviously, the NMI wants to maintain the JD 1.40 price so it reduced the portions and quality in order to remain within its original budget."

"But, the net result was reduced food portions, which the 800 or so employees of the hospital protested with their so-called 'food strike,'" said the source, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The source said the NMI move to assume control of catering applied to all hospitals under its control. But no counter moves were reported from other hospital any other than Al Bashir Hospital.

Dr. Abdil Salam Majali, director of NMI, could not be reached for comment Sunday.

According to numerous accounts by Al Bashir staff members and patients, the change in food, both "in terms of quality and quantity," was "drastic."

"A breast of chicken which used to be served to one person was split among two or three," said a young intern. "We used to have one small container each of yoghurt, and this was reduced to a couple of spoonsfuls. Instead of a decent portion of salad, we had to gorge to find tomatoes and cucumbers," he said.

Another doctor said that breakfast consisting of an egg and a piece of bread for doctors on-call was stopped and "the tea in the morning was no longer available."

"The shop outside the hospital did booming business over the last three days," he said.

A shopkeeper near the hospital confirmed the account. Agreeing to be quoted only as "Abu Suleiman," the shopkeeper said: "My business during the last three days was as much as three weeks in normal times."

Patients were also affected by the reduction in food at the hospital, according to some staff members. "Even the patients were getting low quantity food that simply was not enough," The Jordan Times could not interview any of the patients to verify this charge.

## NMI blames ministry, drugstores for shortage

By Ziyad Al Shihabi  
to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Medical Institution (NMI) in Jordan believes that the current crisis over the shortage of medicine in the market is largely due to a dispute between the Ministry of Health and local drug stores, according to senior NMI official.

The ministry wants to retain the same prices for medicines while the drugstores are demanding a higher price because they say that the drugs were bought for higher prices, NMI Deputy Director General Badie Qawasmeh told Petra. "The best solution for the problem is floating the drug prices and not creating a parallel market for selling medicine," Qawasmeh said.

Qawasmeh said that NMI hospitals did not have any medicine shortage and all those entitled to health services can assured of sufficient amounts of medicine.

"Any shortage of medicine in pharmacies is the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health which is now trying to find a solution for the dispute with the drugstores," Qawasmeh added.

Different types of medicine in large quantities are now lying in drugstores in Amman awaiting the end of the dispute and an agreement on pricing, Petra said.

## JUST seminar to review child growth surveillance

AMMAN (J.T.) — A scientific workshop on the operational tools used in conducting systematic monitoring and surveillance of child-growth and development is going to be held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on Thursday and Friday.

The Department of Community Medicine and Public Health of the School of Medicine at the university is the organiser and sponsor of the workshop. The activity may be recognised as one step forward in promoting the concept of "continuous medical education," according to a university press release. It comes in accordance with the recently evolving attention towards a preventive strategy that aims at securing better chances for child health and development, the press release said.

The recipients in the workshop will be physicians of maternal and child health centres under the

health directorate of Irbid. Later, those physicians will act as trainers to the body of midwives and health workers attached to these centres.

The supervision over the workshop activities will be the responsibility of a group of teaching staff members in the Department of Community Medicine; these are Professor Dr. Sa'ad S. Hijazi (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor Nahed Kamel, Dr. Ra'sa Qutob, and Ibrahim Khatib.

Among the training elements which will be discussed and practised in this workshop are: The technique used in assessing growth, statistical demonstration of growth data, local factors influencing child growth, the high risk groups prone to growth failures in the community, and the standard screening tests used in screening for developmental delays at early childhood.

## Workshop debates agriculture insurance

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for applying agricultural insurance in Jordan will be discussed by officials and specialists from Jordan and specialised organisations during a two-day workshop, which was opened in Amman Sunday.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said the workshop, organised by the ministries of agriculture and planning in cooperation with the West German technical cooperation agency, would deal with the matter of insurance in view of dangers to crops brought about by natural causes like drought, frost, floods, fires, disease, locusts and others.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Suma told the opening session of the workshop, being held at Amra Hotel, that agricultural insurance was one of the most feasible elements that help stabilise the agricultural sector in Jordan. There have been some studies about this matter but the government has not yet taken any practical steps for adopting this kind of insurance, Suma said.

He noted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the concerned authorities to give due attention to agricultural

insurance following the floods that swept some parts of the country, especially the Jordan Valley, in the past years prompted the Ministry of Agriculture to seriously consider insurance against agricultural losses and damages.

Agricultural insurance, Touqan added, "plays a vital role in increasing agricultural output, helps to bring stability to farmers, encourages the private sector to get more involved in farming, reduces movement of people from rural to urban areas and minimises dependence on government subsidies."

Taking part in the workshop

are delegates from the ministries of agriculture, industry and trade and planning as well as the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the Jordan Cooperative

Organisation, the Jordanian Farmers Association, the Jordanian Insurance Companies Association, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Association of Banks in Jordan, the Central Bank of Jordan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development.

## Private sector details sheep import proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Supply Merchants Association in Jordan has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Supply for the import of live sheep and cattle, which, it said, would save the country a total of JD 22 million difference in price for imported slaughtered sheep or in government subsidies for meat.

The Association's deputy-president, Mohammad Deeb, said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanian merchants had expressed readiness to import sheep from Australia and Uruguay to be slaughtered at the Amman slaughter house.

Deeb also suggested the creation of a company to ferry sheep to Aqaba and said that the private sector and investment funds could be involved in the operation, floating stables with a capacity of 120,000 heads of sheep each.

He said the creation of such company does not cost more than the total amount of subsidy on meat for three years.

For its part, the Ministry of Supply welcomed the proposal that the private sector import live sheep but said importers should pay duty on each head of sheep entering Jordan contrary to what the merchants demanded.

The proposal was prompted by the shortages of fresh meat imported from Bulgaria and Romania due to recent upheavals in the two countries. To make up for the shortage of fresh meat, the Ministry of Supply has imported large quantities of frozen meat from New Zealand. The meat now sells for JD 1.50 a kilo, while local fresh meat is still in short supply.

In comparing prices, Deeb said in his statement that imported fresh meat from Romania and Bulgaria cost JD 1.60 a kilo and sold for JD 1.10 which means a

loss of 480 fils per kilogramme. Deeb estimated the annual loss in meat subsidy at JD 12 million.

Turning to beef and cow meat, Deeb said that the government was paying some JD 10 million in subsidies and in difference in prices. The ministry suggested that it could allow the private sector to import live cows to be slaughtered in Jordan in a similar manner, he said. A kilogramme of cow meat will arrive here at JD 1.200 and will be sold to the consumers for JD 1.60 with bone and JD 2.000 without bone, according to Deeb.

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In his statement, Deeb said that the government should not charge any duty on the imported sheep and can remove the subsidy on meat in return.

The ministry issues licences for merchants to import live sheep, but duties will be levied on the imports, according to a ministry official. He said that unless laws are changed nothing can be done about the duty charges.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said Jordan had almost three million heads of sheep but not sufficient to cover the country's needs.

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and

The French Cultural Centre/Amman present

The French 'Ud Player

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in concert

Main Hall/Philadelphia Hotel

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More concerts for the occasion:

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Wednesday 7/2	Pianist and Composer PATRICK LAMA
Thursday 8/2	Iraqi 'Ud Player MUNIR BASHIR



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## Process not in vain

EXAMINATION of the 1990 draft budget by the Finance Committee of the Lower House took 21 days followed by three full days of intense debate by the House itself. The deliberations ended by the expected approval of the budget by a majority of about three to one and only after a minor one per cent reduction of certain office expenses.

This does not necessarily mean that the lengthy democratic process was in vain. In fact, the budget was prepared with that process in mind, so the debate was both healthy and useful. When you have a strong army, it is more likely that you don't need to use it because your potential enemy has already taken note of your preparedness.

One has to point out though that the budget was not the Badran government's budget. It was drafted, approved by the Cabinet and referred to Parliament at least one week before Mr. Badran was asked to form his government.

The main winner of the parliamentary debate was the "economic correction programme" approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For the first time the full text of the programme was made public, and despite the opposing voices here and there, the programme was effectively accepted or at least tolerated. The budget of 1990 was the second phase of the five-year programme, and a step forward in the direction of achieving its goals, mainly those aimed at lowering the deficit and moving towards self-sufficiency.

There is, however, a feeling that the budget did not do much in a direct way to alleviate unemployment, inflation, public consumption and encourage new investments. But the budget did a lot indirectly. The economic stability may spur confidence and investments which create jobs, and the reduced deficit will control inflation. The budget was and continues to be the major instrument in directing the Jordanian economy.

In a way, the approval of the budget was a renewed vote of confidence in the government. The remaining battle will be over some temporary economic laws which need to be confirmed, especially the income tax law which touches on the pockets where it hurts. Here again, we don't expect a major problem. The government seems to be doing very well in handling the legislature — for the time being at any rate.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday again discussed the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and said that proponents of such immigration tend to present it as a solution for a humanitarian problem. The paper noted that those backing the immigration process tend to forget that more Jews in the occupied territories means a stronger Israel, militarily and politically and that such immigration will encourage Israel to hold on to the occupied Arab land and continue its aggression and its inhuman practices. The paper said that the Arabs have to deal with the situation on two fronts: to hold a summit where discussion should lead to a collective action on the international level and to launch a wide scale campaign to convene the long expected international conference where a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be found. The Arabs want a peace that can ensure the return of all Arab rights and lands in exchange for this peace with Israel, said the paper. Although the Arabs realize that Israel would most certainly try to oppose any international move for a lasting settlement, they ought to move in all directions and take the initiative before it is too late, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily Mahmoud Al Rissawi says that the United States finds acute pleasure in watching the Palestinians suffering as a result of their deprivation of human rights, and delighted at watching more Jews converging on the occupied Palestinian land to settle on Arab territory. The writer says that Washington does not only support the immigration of Soviet Jews, but is trying to facilitate and encourage this immigration which could destroy the Palestinian people's aspiration for freedom. Washington turns a deaf ear to all protests from the Arabs and the world community, and pretends that U.N. Security Council resolutions since 1948, which call for the return of the Arab population to their homeland in Palestine do not exist, the writer notes. Rimawi says Washington realizes that the cause of tension in the Middle East is Israel's atrocities and inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories, but still continues to provide the Jewish state with all means to consolidate its hold over Arab territory. Furthermore, Washington finds no way for explaining and defending its racist policies and its continued support for the criminal actions committed by its ally in occupied Palestine, said the writer. He says one can only hope for changes to happen and new developments world-wide which could offer the Arabs a chance to regain their right.

One can only describe the debates that preceded the endorsement of the 1990 budget by parliament as an exercise of democracy in the full sense of the word, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Sunday. The paper noted that Prime Minister Muqrin Badran, in his replies to the deputies' remarks, shed more light on the situation in Jordan and explained that the Kingdom has limited means. This, the paper said, gives clear indication to the ordinary citizens that they ought to act with responsibility to help both the executive and legislative authorities. But the keenness displayed by both authorities during the debate on the need to safeguard public funds and to rationalize spending at all levels gives assurance that everything will be under control from now on; and no aggravation of the financial and economic situation could be forthcoming, the paper added. It said that the government and parliament both shoulder a great responsibility seeking the people's trust; and they ought to act accordingly and to rise to the occasion.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Jordan needs to reassess school system

A TRAGEDY befell Jordan's school system last week when an eight-year-old student was killed at the hands of his teacher at one of the public schools in Shobak. The tragedy has been compounded by the fact that that murder did not stir much public outcry. There were very few voices that condemned the killing and our parliamentarians, who pride themselves in addressing issues of public interest, did very little if any to demand even an explanation of the incident. Such an ominous and regrettable lack of interest in what goes on in our schools is something that is bothering many parents. Whatever the true reasons that lie behind this indifference, we must now renew the call for a public debate of the broader subject of schools and school curricula.

The very fact that a child was killed in one of Jordan's schools in this last decade of the twentieth century is a grim reminder that all is not well in our schools. The revamping of the country's school and higher education systems is an urgent and pressing matter in view of the rapid changes within and outside Jordan and the giant leaps forward in thought, science and technology. Putting student-teacher relations on a sounder and more enlightened plateau is all the more urgent in view of the hypothesis that the death of the young student last week is just the tip of the iceberg that tells a horrifying story about continuing mistreatment of students of all ages. There is no doubt in my mind that there are

countless stories of maltreatment of students in both private and public schools that go on unrecorded or undocumented. The only way to deal with this horrendous phenomenon is to have the new spirit of democracy which has permeated life in the country succeed in making a beach-head on our school system where tyranny and oppression still reign supreme.

One fundamental aspect of democratisation of the school and university life is surely the promotion and development of freely elected student governments on campuses. Through this route, Jordanians can achieve two objectives: elevate student-teacher relations to a democratic plateau and train Jordanians in the art of democracy as early as possible to enable them later in life to practise democracy in a mature and responsible manner. The country has no right to criticise the repeated manifestation of irresponsibility or immaturity by some voters or their elected representatives or question their sophistication or awareness as long as Jordanians are deprived of opportunities to learn the art of contemporary citizenship in the formative years of their lives.

The killing of the young student last week also calls for the consideration and treatment of the broader subject of child abuse in the Kingdom. There is no doubt that child abuse of all sorts and forms is rampant in our life and that the majority of child abuse

cases still go on undetected and unresolved. There is an urgent need for a special legislation on this matter to fill the gaps and loopholes existing in laws governing children and their exploitation or abuse. In this vein, it would be in order to establish a quasi-private society to monitor and treat child abuse cases. Jordan is treaty-obligated to treat its children in a more humane and enlightened manner and it is high time that the long march towards healthier child treatment be started. The government should be encouraged to sign and ratify the recently adopted International Convention on the Protection of Children and incorporate its guidelines and provisions into Jordanian laws. Through respect of the letter and spirit of international and domestic legislation on child protection, the killing of students or the abuse of children would have a real chance to stop.

The anguish of the entire country over the death of the eight-year-old student can never be meaningful and potent enough to redress the entire issue to the satisfaction of all Jordanians unless and until Jordanian children are accorded the full attention, care and protection that they are naturally and legally entitled to. In this context, I would respectfully submit that the Kingdom dedicate a day for students to be called student day in which the entire country would honour them and commemorate the additional safeguards and protections accorded to them.

## Time to reduce American aid to Israel

By Jawad F. George

Jawad F. George is executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, based in Washington.

MOMENTOUS developments in Eastern Europe and Latin America have placed compelling demands on the United States for its foreign-aid dollars at a time when huge deficits have forced sizeable budget reductions and heavily burdened the American taxpayer. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole has brought this conflict into focus for the American public with his bold statement that we must consider cutting the allotments of some countries to benefit others.

A serious re-examination of the way in which the United States allocates its foreign aid has been sorely needed for many years.

Five countries now receive two-thirds of the U.S. foreign-aid budget. One of the key causes of this inequity has been Congress' practice of stipulating that specific sums be given to particular

a need for massive — start-up investments in basic industries and infrastructure.

Israel is the exception. It is a wealthy, developed nation with a high per-capita GNP and a high standard of living. It also maintains, at great expense, an enormous military establishment that far surpasses that of any combination of its neighbours, and that includes chemical and nuclear weapons and ballistic-missiles technology. A prudent and equitable allocation of aid would require a larger reduction in assistance to Israel, relative to other recipients.

The disproportionate Israeli share of U.S. foreign aid represents an outlay of \$598 for every Israeli citizen. Compare that to the 1990 allocation for the other four: Egypt, \$43 per capita, Turkey, \$11, Philippines, \$8, and Pakistan, \$6.

Since 1985 at least \$3 billion a year in U.S. economic and military aid has been allocated for Israel. This enormous sum, however, accounts for only part

of the benefits Israel receives. This year, as in the past, Israel was the only recipient to acquire its aid in a lump-sum transfer at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Unlike other countries, which must spend their military aid in the United States, Israel is allowed to spend \$400 million a year in Israel itself. U.S. law also stipulated that funds allocated to Israel not be less than the annual debt repayment from Israel to the United States government; a prerequisite that many poorer nations would welcome. Congress appropriated \$7.5 million that Israel can use as foreign assistance to third countries. And, from accounts earmarked for migration and refugee assistance, Congress stipulated that \$25 million was to be made available to Israel this year to assist the Soviet and other refugees resettling in Israel, though many other nations are experiencing much more pressing refugee problems.

How Israel uses those refugee assistance funds may raise serious questions about its commitment to peace. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir recently implied that Israel must retain the occupied West Bank to accommodate the influx of Soviet Jews, a position that is unquestionably contrary to U.S. policy.

Israel in recent years has been

conducting numerous activities that undermine its claim to especially large amounts of U.S. foreign aid assistance. Among the most glaring examples: Israeli espionage against the United States, Israeli involvement in transferring ballistic missile technology to South Africa and its nuclear cooperation with Pretoria.

Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel's continued occupation of portions of Lebanon as well as the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and its human rights abuses of Arab under the occupation, Israeli failure to advance the peace process regarding the West Bank and Gaza, and the involvement of Israel in notorious activities detrimental to U.S. interests.

Under the terms of U.S. law, these actions ought to disqualify Israel from receiving any U.S. assistance whatsoever. Even if the continuation of aid to Israel is deemed in the national interest, such aid should be used as leverage to persuade Israel to adhere to the basic standards of human rights and international law, and to meet the requirements of American law. U.S. aid should not be given to Israel or any other recipient unconditionally.

Dole has done the American taxpayer a service by calling for a re-examination of U.S. aid allocations. But that re-examination should go beyond proposals to cut aid by simple formulas, it should include an assessment of whether foreign aid, which is an indispensable and worthy mechanism, is being used for purposes that are beneficial or detrimental to U.S. interests. With so many countries desperate for scarce U.S. assistance, not one dollar should be wasted. — Los Angeles Times

## Mandela became world's most influential prisoner

By Laurinda Keys

The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Nelson Mandela, given a life sentence for plotting sabotage to overthrow the South African government, became the world's most influential prisoner during what Mandela was a political prisoner.

In 1985, Botha had allowed Zindzi Mandela to read her father's response to the latest offer of conditional release before a crowd in Soweto, the township outside Johannesburg where Mandela had rented a home since the 1940s.

Unheard and unseen by the public since 1962, he nevertheless came to be the most admired leader among South African blacks, who consider him the embodiment of their quest for political freedom.

In the past, Mandela, 71, has rejected the government's repeated offers to release him if he would renounce violence or live in a tribal homeland. He said the government should renounce violence, end apartheid and banish his movement — the African National Congress.

On Friday in Cape Town, President F.W. de Klerk declared that the ANC was legal again and said Mandela soon would be freed unconditionally.

After Mandela's historic meeting July 5, 1989, with President P.W. Botha, a statement by the ANC leader was released by the prison service and broadcast on government-run radio and television.

He said he had not deviated from the position he had taken over the past 28 years, namely that dialogue with the mass democratic movement and, in particular, with the African National Congress, is the only way of ending violence and bringing peace to our country.

"I only would like to contribute to the creation of a climate which would promote peace in South Africa," Mandela said.

De Klerk replaced Botha in August 1989, and met with Mandela at his Cape Town office on Dec. 13, 1989, amid intense expectations that the prisoner would be freed in the new year.

Mandela regularly has entertained his family and streams of friends in a comfortable house at the Robben Island maximum security prison near Cape Town, police uncovered the ANC's underground headquarters on a farm near Johannesburg and seized documents outlining plans for the guerrilla campaign, including Mandela's diary.

Expectations of his release had been raised before, but each time the government balked at freeing the man many blacks believed should be their president.

Former Information Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said in July 1988 that Mandela had served enough time to pay for his crimes and that the only thing keeping

him in prison was the government's uncertainty about the effect he would have on politics and national security.

He said he "cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities... it is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve, but if need be an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

His wife, Winnie, jailed or banished through much of his imprisonment, said, "in each and every single letter he has written over the past 20 years and in each and every visit, he has always been confident that he will come out and lead his people to liberation."

During most of his 18 years on Robben Island, Mandela endured substandard food, deprivation of news and reading material, and hard labour that included gathering seaweed and smashing rock. Yet he often wrote his wife that he was the hardest thing to endure was the treatment she received.

He wrote that he sometimes wondered "whether any kind of commitment can ever be sufficient excuse for abandoning a young and inexperienced woman in a pitiless desert."

In April 1982, Mandela and five colleagues were transferred to Pollsmoor prison in a white suburb outside Cape Town. They shared a large cell where Mandela cultivated a vegetable garden and complained about the conditions. He was allowed to pursue his studies for an advanced law degree, which he received in early 1989, and eventually began receiving uncensored newspapers and radio reports.

Mandela's communications with his wife and family were restricted to 40-minute visits and one 500-word letter per month, monitored to make sure only family matters were discussed. On May 12, 1984, Mandela and his wife were allowed to embrace for the first time in 22 years.

Mandela was born July 18, 1918, the son of a tribal chief, and received a relatively privileged upbringing in Transkei, a Xhosa homeland the government has declared an independent republic. He attended Methodist schools and was admitted to the black university of Fort Hare in 1938, but was expelled in 1940 for leading a student strike with Oliver Tambo, now the ANC's exiled president.

To avoid an arranged tribal marriage, Mandela fled to Johannesburg, where he worked as a policeman at a gold mine, as a law clerk, and for a real estate agency run by Walter Sisulu, later to be imprisoned with him. Mandela regularly followed as Botha continued to resist real political reform and hundreds of foreign companies withdrew from South Africa.

Botha's Rubicon speech be-

came the turning point of his 10-year career and resulted eventually in his defeat last year by de Klerk, who has proved to be a more courageous reformer.

"I think de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon. He has certainly gone right out into the deep," said professor John Barratt of Johannesburg University's Institute for International Affairs.

"There is going to be very wide applause. It is going to have a very positive effect on South Africa's international relations," he said.

Western diplomats acknowledged that de Klerk had gone much further than any of them expected and said their governments would be obliged now to support his reform initiatives.

"This speech demands a response both from the West and from the ANC, which is going to have to revise its tactics," one diplomat said.

Anti-government cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu commended de Klerk for his courage in instituting reform.

"I want to give him very considerable credit. He was not given us everything, but he has gone a very long way along the road," Tutu told a news conference.

Barratt said he expected the U.S. administration would re-examine its anti-apartheid sanctions and hold off on further economic measures against Pretoria.

European governments might be slower to repeat existing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on

trade with South Africa. He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher probably would accept an invitation to become the first Western head of government to visit South Africa since 1960.

Thatcher has already invited de Klerk to Britain for talks and accolades have started to pour in from Europe and Africa, with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda complementing him on "a job well started."

Kaunda is the head of Southern Africa's important frontline nations — six black countries championing Africa's fight against South Africa's white minority rule.

Mandela's wife, Winnie, a prominent activist in her own right, said after hearing about de Klerk's speech: "We are not prepared to accept a bone with no meat."

She said de Klerk should have ended the three-year-old national state of emergency and 40 years of enforced racial segregation.

But young blacks in Cape Town and Johannesburg appeared to differ as they took to the streets in a spontaneous celebration that was not seen even when de Klerk released several top ANC leaders from prison late last year.

## Features

# Bravo and applause for the beginners

On Saturday evening the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra performed in front of an audience of specialists. The performance drew mixed reactions. Nelly Lama was there:

THE first concert held on the occasion of the 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music (Arab League) and the 1st Arab music festival organised by the International Music Council (UNESCO) was performed by the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Attendance was not very encouraging although this time, it was a matter of quality rather than quantity. Professional musicians from all over the Arab World, here to attend the meeting and festival, formed a great part of the audience. A number of expatriates and some fellow musicians were there, but many concert goers did not make an appearance.

Guy Huot, secretary general of the International Music Council, found the performance a "absolutely amazing that grown-ups have learned to play instruments that they were not used to playing before, the orchestral instruments are the most difficult. I think they come out of it with flying colors. It is not easy for someone who already has certain musical habits to acquire new ones. I think they do very well. They obviously have a very dedicated conductor who treats them well and knows what he expects of them and how much he can expect from them. Within the orchestra, there are some very musical players. It is admirable that an Armed Force will have a symphony orchestra. You usually think of 'bands' when you think of an army."

Asked about intermittent mistakes made by the orchestra, he said: "Of course, that's inevitable, they are in a way the equivalent of a student orchestra except that students usually grow with their instruments whilst in

their case they were not allowed to grow, they suddenly were grown up and had to pretend they were starting new instruments. It is inevitable that they make mistakes."

Asked whether a section of the orchestra was better than the other he said: "There is a very good first flute. Obviously, there are some problems, the winds are better, it is also easier to play wind instruments rather than strings. Sometimes the violins come out quite good and so do the celli. It is a matter of coaching. I don't know how long they have been together but few years are not enough for an orchestra made of basically non professionals to suddenly become professionals."

And did the quality of the instruments used inhibited the sound? "You could have the best violin in the world and unless you have proper coaching that does not matter and if you had a great violin with a bad instrument, he would still get good sound out of it. I think they have to keep on getting coached, to practice everyday taking lessons. It's a long apprenticeship."

As I pointed out to him that he was very positive in his answers he assured me that it was the only way. "These people must devote so much of their time. It is very difficult for them. It is a very ambitious programme that it has to be done with people who studied music on foreign instruments since childhood. It is essential to choose musical partitions that are in line with the performers' capabilities. With such compatibility, the work can be performed well. I do encourage the symphony orchestra and not criticise them, but I look on to ten years from now. What will become of them? I feel that if we introduce into this orchestra new elements, youths

Khadar Jusid, the Syrian de-

legate, had a different opinion. "There is a certain hardness in the rendering. Flexibility comes with musicians who start at a very early age and grow gradually into professional musicians. There was a problem of accidence but we were pleased to hear them perform. They can yet ameliorate their playing, for as they grow as musicians they will improve. Their strong temper will go more subtle. A performer ought to be in a state of relaxation while he performs. I came to Jordan 28 years ago and I have, since, followed its development in the field of music. You made great leaps forward and have preceded us. Here you have good supervision and backing from both their Majesties."

He believes that the National Music Conservatory, is putting great efforts towards creating a new generation of artists. "It is a great thing that they are forming a string section, an essential pre-

requisite to forming an orchestra. They are widening the horizons of these youths. Music needs to be supervised by knowledgeable people. Going back to the youthful symphony orchestra, they are good people but they still need a lot of work."

Maam Bashir, secretary general of the Arab Music Academy and head of the regional secretariat of the International Music Council, was pleased to see the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra, a novelty in the field of military music in the Arab World. "This is a huge commitment and a difficult one. It needs time and practice and it has to be done with people who studied music on foreign instruments since childhood. It is essential to choose musical partitions that are in line with the performers' capabilities. With such compatibility, the work can be performed well. I do encourage the symphony orchestra and not criticise them, but I look on to ten years from now. What will become of them? I feel that if we introduce into this orchestra new elements, youths

who were brought up with this kind of music, you start listening to them. They work and work. Some fall by the wayside, others persevere. What happens here is that this group of men all had to come along at the same time and that has never been done before that I know of in the history of music. We think it's a remarkable achievement. When someone is doing a step in a progression, you judge each step for what it should be. This orchestra has a good piece to travel but they have gone so far. Some areas need to be worked on, but we can't expect the same from this group of men that you would from someone who has been playing for ten years longer. When they played together with the Princeton Chamber Symphony, the American musicians had come from a European tradition, surrounding their whole lives with this kind of culture; they first sat together with some kind of apprehension but they quickly became dear friends as well as fellow musicians and they learned things from one another, which was very helpful."

Basem Hanna Petros, second oldest player in the Iraqi Symphony Orchestra and one of its founders, a cellist by profession, commented: "This is a military orchestra that aims at discipline and precision. As a beginning, it is very good, but it should be fed with civilian elements especially where the strings are concerned, for they need a good violin leader to teach them interpretation. The orchestra has no problem with note reading, but it needs a little refining to reach better intonation. I am pleased to find a second symphony orchestra in the Arab World."

Petros named different orchestras that existed in the Arab World but suffered losses because of wars, as in Lebanon, or other reasons. "The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra is the most solid one. It is backed by the government. We are all locals except for few foreign professors from the Institute of Music who fulfil our needs."

He suggested that the perfor-

mers should listen to professional recordings of the pieces they play. He also expressed the wish to have them participate in a festival where all Arab symphony orchestras perform, compete and exchange ideas. It would be a great challenge to make them improve.

Among the audience was an old friend of Jordan, Irvin Yeaworth. Yeaworth heads communication strategies, a company that makes a variety of programmes to suit the needs of different kinds of audiences around the world. They brought the Princeton Chamber Orchestra to Jordan last year. Yeaworth and his wife had just arrived in Jordan. On their way from the airport they read an announcement in the newspaper about the concert. They dropped their luggage at the hotel and rushed to attend the concert.

"This group is remarkable," he commented. "We think that what is happening here is amazing. I watched the men play and I thought, 'how did they tune their ears to this music?' They did not grow up with it. For people who have no background in Western music to train their ears to this kind of sound and learn the instruments and work together under the programme that is established here is remarkable. Every other culture where you

have this kind of music, you start with children and the better ones are selected to go on and on. They work and work. Some fall by the wayside, others persevere. What happens here is that this group of men all had to come along at the same time and that has never been done before that I know of in the history of music. We think it's a remarkable achievement. When someone is doing a step in a progression, you judge each step for what it should be. This orchestra has a good piece to travel but they have gone so far. Some areas need to be worked on, but we can't expect the same from this group of men that you would from someone who has been playing for ten years longer. When they played together with the Princeton Chamber Symphony, the American musicians had come from a European tradition, surrounding their whole lives with this kind of culture; they first sat together with some kind of apprehension but they quickly became dear friends as well as fellow musicians and they learned things from one another, which was very helpful."

It is a fact that Noor Al Hussein Foundation is procuring them with every opportunity to meet professional performers and teachers. The performers should not take this lightly for they have a mission to fulfil.



Liv Ullmann: Actress and activist

By John Parker  
Reader

HONG KONG — When Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann recently defied danger warnings to visit children in Hong Kong's often violent camps for Vietnamese boat people, she had in mind a particular child yet unborn.

Police advised that her safety in some camps could not be guaranteed, but Ullmann, 51, is soon to be grandmother and says that knowledge has honed her keen social conscience.

"Now ... (with) refugees) is even more important," she said in an interview.

"What if (my grandchild) turns out to be a very socially conscious person? Then he hears about shocking things that were going on in the world and he says, 'grandmother what did you do to help?' I'd like to not lose his respect."

At a news conference last week to draw attention to the plight of Vietnamese boat people crammed into Hong Kong's overflow-

ing camps, Ullmann spent 10 minutes lambasting a local journalist for an article she disliked.

"That would be just so bizarre," she told another reporter who asked if she would answer questions on a 30-year career that has included such films as *The Hour of the Wolf* in 1968 and the 1974 *Scenes from a Marriage*.

Ullmann was in Hong Kong as joint leader of a delegation from the U.S.-based Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children which spent a week touring the camps and talking to barbed wire.

"She was really marvelous in the camps," said one of her co-delegates, describing how Ullmann spent hours talking to boat people.

Since December, when Hong Kong for the first time forcibly repatriated a group of 51 boat people from among the 56,000 in the British colony, aid workers and police say the atmosphere in the jam-packed camps has grown far worse.

After surviving perilous voyages in small boats across the

South China Sea, and languishing — often for years — in Hong Kong camps, most of the boat people now face the prospect of being sent back to their communist homeland.

Some are desperate enough to feel they have nothing to lose by violent protest against repatriation.

Vicious fights between rival gangs are commonplace. Women and girls complain of rape and sexual harassment. Children grow up seeing the world through barbed wire.

Ullmann described the conditions in the camps as a disgrace. Her delegation said in a statement: "No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning infants, keeping them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentration camp-like conditions."

The actress has little time for the politics of the problem — she sees suffering and wants it stopped — and the brushes aside the concerns of those Hong Kong residents who resent the imposition of so many Vietnamese on the already crowded British

colony. "I am very happy for many reasons to be Norwegian ... I know how important it is to be long somewhere, to have roots somewhere — that's why it is so easy for me to identify with people who have become uprooted."

She still has a home in Norway and carries a Norwegian passport. Her only child — 23-year-old Lim — is expecting her grandchild there, but these days Ullmann herself lives in Boston with her husband of five years, businessman Donald Samuels.

She leads a quiet life and shuns the glitz of the movie world.

Liv Ullmann

Liv Ullmann

## Airline industry: Plane crashes becoming more survivable

By Lawrence L. Knutson  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aid disasters such as the Avianca Airlines crash on Long Island last week are becoming more survivable, in part because design and technical advances have made jet travel safer, many air safety experts say.

"The accident is improving. It's not more dangerous, it's getting better," says S. Harry Robertson, director of the Crash Research Institute in Tempe, Arizona. "Airplanes are getting safer as the newer generations come along. The rate of improvement is very significant."

Capt. Ed Arbon, who flew for 22 years with Trans World Airlines and is now an official of the Flight Safety Foundation, agrees.

"Some of the recent improvements do make the modern aircraft more survivable," Arbon says.

Twenty-three people died aboard the plane, which made an emergency landing at the Greater Cincinnati airport. Some suffered fatal burns. Others died of smoke inhalation.

The recommendations led to the installation of fire blocking covers on passenger seats on all commercial aircraft with 30 or more seats, automatic fire extinguishers in lavatories, halon fire extinguishers in the cockpit, smoke detectors in lavatories and new rules on cabin materials to make the cabin interiors more flame resistant and less likely to emit toxic gases, Ms. Anderson says.

"Eighty to 85 per cent of recent crashes are survivable," says Drucilla Anderson, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board. "A lot of safeguards have been built into the planes."

Eighty-nine of the 161 passengers — more than half — survived the crash of Avianca flight 52 into a hill on the north shore of Long Island.

Preliminary inquiries suggest the craft had either run out of fuel or had a very low supply when it crashed Jan. 25 night on its way to New York's John F. Kennedy International airport. There was no fire when the 23-year-old Boeing 707 crashed.

But the battle for air safety is far from over, even though air travel on the whole has become amazingly safe and millions of passengers are transported each year without incident.

Under new rules issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and prompted by the investigation of air crashes, passenger seats are being strengthened and have been covered with fire blocking material. The allowable level of toxic smoke and fumes from burning aircraft materials also has been reduced, and exit doors have been made more reliable to avoid jamming.

FAA spokesman Fred Farrar said Avianca, like other foreign airlines, would have been required to make some safety upgrades, such as providing fire-retardant seat covers and lavatory smoke alarms, but it would not have been required to strengthen seats.

The latter requirements still are being adopted for foreign airliners, Farrar said.

Arbon says that by the nature of its technology, the modern jet passenger liner is a safer plane than the piston aircraft it replaced.

"We used to lose engines frequently," he said. "The jetliner has a very reliable power plant. It also has a good guidance system, a good auto pilot; the electronics are much more reliable."

Robertson says improvements are continuing on "the ways in which airplanes are informed as to what is going on and how people on the ground control them."

"It is in fact being expanded."

Robertson, whose institute has been engaged in the study of air crashes for more than 30 years, says air disasters can be divided into three categories.

These range from the airborne equivalent of fender-benders — posing small risk to those on board — to deadly accidents in which all or most of the passengers and crew are killed.

It is the third category — mid-air ground accidents in which some are killed but many survive — which pose an opportunity, the safety experts say.

"The aim is to take that mid-air ground and expand it," thus reducing the number of totally deadly accidents, Robertson said.

"It is in fact being expanded."

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## Europe attracts Japanese funds

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors from Japan, the largest single source of foreign capital to the United States, are shifting their sights to attractive European markets, mainly booming West Germany, which is emerging as the most powerful economic force reshaping Eastern Europe.

The thought that the enormously wealthy Japanese may be hanging back from U.S. investments dampened the stock market's mood this past week and injected new anxiety into the market for U.S. Treasury securities.

... impending \$30 billion Treasury auction this week could provide a better clue about the extent to which Japanese investors are willing to keep financing America's federal deficit, economists say.

Poor participation would suggest that interest rates must rise to attract buyers. This would make bonds more competitive with stocks and would raise borrowing costs of American corporations, lowering their profits.

For weeks Japanese investors have been lightening up on American equities, economists say, partly to raise cash for mar-

gin calls on their own heavily leveraged stocks at home. Japanese stocks have been falling mainly in response to rising interest rates and inflation pressures.

More significantly, Japanese investors have discovered potentially more lucrative markets in West Germany since the Berlin wall came tumbling down.

"The Japanese have taken money otherwise going to buy U.S. stocks and bonds and are investing in West Germany," said economist Mark Killion with DRI-McGraw-Hill Inc. in Lexington, Massachusetts.

West Germany is particularly attractive to Japanese investors for two reasons: Exchange rates — the mark is stronger against both the dollar and the yen and political changes in Eastern Europe, which are expected to enormously benefit the West German economy. Both are pushing up West German interest rates.

"The highest rates of return available today are in Germany," said Marc Goloven, an international economist with Manufacturing Hanover Trust Co.

In the week ending Jan. 26, the

long-term West German government bond yielded 7.56 per cent, Goloven said. The comparable Japanese yield was 6.19 per cent. Although the U.S. Treasury's long-term bond was yielding 8.48 per cent, the rising value of the mark still made the West German bonds worth more.

Higher West German rates stem partly from the influx of people into West Germany from throughout Eastern Europe, which is putting pressure on prices, particularly housing, and raising the inflation rate. The West German central bank's answer to rising inflation is to raise interest rates.

In addition, unification of Western Europe under the European Community in 1992 has incited a rash of investments by the Japanese, who fear that heightened trade restrictions could keep them out of those markets.

"We still attract significant amounts of Japanese investment capital and will continue to do so whether in the form of direct investment in such things as automobile assembly plants or portfolio investments in stocks and bonds," Goloven said.

in European markets if they get there before 1992 occurs."

Nonetheless, economists emphasize that Japanese investors, while investing in Europe, are not abandoning U.S. markets.

The question is not whether Japanese investors are going to come to the United States, but at what price," said Lawrence Veit, international economist with Brown Brothers Harriman and Co. Financial firm.

Veit says European markets are not large enough to absorb huge amounts of Japanese funds.

"So whereas the Japanese can send a lot of money in a short time to Europe, it is not feasible to think that they will send a lot of money over a long period of time," Veit said.

Economists say there are still many reasons the Japanese will come to U.S. markets, including political stability.

"We still attract significant amounts of Japanese investment capital and will continue to do so whether in the form of direct investment in such things as automobile assembly plants or portfolio investments in stocks and bonds," Goloven said.

## U.S. foreign aid becomes hot topic

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign aid has become a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Congressmen are asking President George Bush's administration: Where's the money?

Pressing domestic needs, changes in Eastern Europe, last year's invasion of Panama and a controversial proposal by Senator Robert Dole to slash money from Israel and Egypt have spotlighted foreign aid in 1990.

"There's going to be some rough sledding," said Senator Jim Sasser, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, noting the general unpopularity of foreign aid.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal newspaper and the U.S. television network NBC showed 71 per cent of Americans believe the United States spends too much on foreign aid. They supported aid, but were virtually split on helping Poland and opposed aid to East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Many lawmakers, including Senator Bob Kasten, a member of the Senate Committee that divides up foreign aid, and congressman David Obey, chairman of the House Foreign Operations

Appropriations Subcommittee, view cuts in defence — the so-called "peace dividend" — as the future cash cow for foreign aid.

"We can easily cut another \$10 billion to \$18 billion without jeopardizing security," said Senator Joseph Biden, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"There's a lot more to be done within the Defense Department."

Biden is one of a handful of Democratic senators who introduced a bill last week to channel \$500 billion to Eastern Europe over five years.

Consequently, Sam Gejdenson said the defence budget should be cut in favour of foreign aid.

"There are times to buy bullets and times for other things," he said.

While the Bush administration last week proposed a \$14.8 billion foreign aid request for fiscal year 1991, about \$1 billion over the previous year, lawmakers still have unfinished business for fiscal year 1990.

Secretary of State James Baker has informed lawmakers the administration is planning to ask Congress for two supplemental aid packages for 1990, but he

hasn't told them where he wants to cut money so the budget will balance.

The packages are \$500 million for Panama to help the country the United States invaded on Dec. 20, and \$70 million for

Sudan and Somalia, countries that had not met their U.S. requirements for continued receipt of aid.

But Simon, chairman of a Senate Africa Subcommittee, said he'll oppose that move.

In fact, Leonard Robinson Jr., chairman of the African Development Bank, complained in an editorial in the Washington Post newspaper that Africa, the world's poorest continent, has been given short shrift.

"Where did the \$900 million come from?" he asked about the money Congress provided for Poland and Hungary late last year.

"Why did it take only days to secure? as an Africanist, I want to know — so do the people of Africa."

Others are sure to come forward with complaints about Congress' habit of "earmarking" setting aside money for specific countries. The administration opposes such earmarks.

Five countries — Israel, Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines and Pakistan — receive more than two-thirds of the total aid. Israel and Egypt get the lion's share, with Israel leading at about \$3

## Turkish inflation declines to 60%

ANKARA (R) — Turkish consumer prices rose 3.8 per cent in January while 12-month inflation to end-January fell to 60.6 per cent from December's 68.8 per cent, the state Institute of Statistics said. The annual rate in consumer prices was led by foodstuffs with prices rising by 69.4 per cent, followed by health services with a 68.6 per cent increase.

Meanwhile, a World Bank economist said that Turkey faced economic instability similar to Latin American states unless it tackled big public sector deficits.

"If no fiscal measures are taken now, the Turkish miracle could really be over and Turkey could look more like a Latin American country that it has in the past," said Sweder Van Wijnbergen.

He told an international conference on economic stabilisation programmes that Turkey had failed to control public spending, including a substantial deficit of the central bank due to subsidised credit.

"The easy road to high growth and high export growth is no

longer open," he said.

Van Wijnbergen said it was not clear whether Turkey would be able to borrow on world markets to finance badly-needed investment. This could lead to higher interest rates for debt issued on the domestic market, he said.

Remittances from Turkish workers abroad could also fall because of concern over economic instability in the country.

Harvard University economist Dani Rodrik said he shared Van Wijnbergen's pessimism about Turkey's future, noting that the introduction of foreign currency deposits for Turkish citizens, along with the fiscal deficit, had raised the inflation rate to around 70 per cent a year.

He said he doubted if the government would act to cut its deficit soon because of pressure from interest groups demanding income redistribution.

He also said he doubted whether Turkey could maintain the growth of exports achieved during the 1980s because it had reached the limits of production capacity.

Greek dockworkers renew strike

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's 2,800 dockworkers went on strike Saturday for better benefits and pay, paralysing ports. The Union of Port Employees of Greece says it expects the strike to last at least a week. The dockworkers are demanding an extra \$50 a day for handling hazardous loads, as well as improved pension and health insurance plans. They have conducted repeated strikes and slowdowns in recent weeks, with the result that some freighters have been redirected to other European ports while others languish at Greek docks. In an interview with the Greek daily newspaper Ethnos, Spiros Marinakis, president of the International Shipping Union, a group representing firms in Athens, warned that the strikes are causing serious long-term damage to Greek shipping.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Oman reports hefty GNP rise

NICOSIA (R) — Oman has reported an eight per cent rise in its gross national product (GNP) during the first nine months of 1989. The Oman News Agency quoted official figures as saying the GNP rose to 2.46 billion Omanis riyals (\$6.38 billion) compared with 2.28 billion riyals (\$5.92 billion) in the corresponding January-September period of 1988. "The (overall) increase is expected to be 12 per cent by the end of last year," the agency, received in Nicosia, said. The figures put oil revenues at nearly 1.1 billion riyals (\$2.85 billion), accounting for about 44 per cent of GNP.

#### Egypt, Albania sign trade agreement

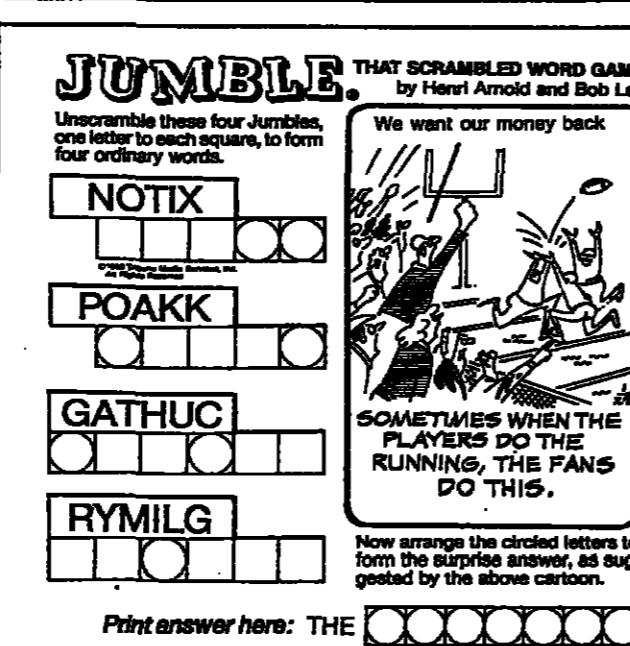
VIENNA (R) — An Egyptian delegation has signed a trade agreement with Albanian officials in the capital, Tirana, the official news agency ATA said Sunday. Under the agreement Albania will export tobacco, chrome, pig iron, copper and tomato paste to Egypt, while Egypt will export phosphate, steel tubes, rubber textiles and aluminum products to Albania. Orthodox communist Albania has stood firm against the changes sweeping the rest of the East Bloc, though leader Ramiz Alia last month promised some limited reforms, including reducing the power of the economic central planning authorities and increasing supplies of some consumer goods.

#### Greek dockworkers renew strike

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's 2,800 dockworkers went on strike Saturday for better benefits and pay, paralysing ports. The Union of Port Employees of Greece says it expects the strike to last at least a week. The dockworkers are demanding an extra \$50 a day for handling hazardous loads, as well as improved pension and health insurance plans. They have conducted repeated strikes and slowdowns in recent weeks, with the result that some freighters have been redirected to other European ports while others languish at Greek docks. In an interview with the Greek daily newspaper Ethnos, Spiros Marinakis, president of the International Shipping Union, a group representing firms in Athens, warned that the strikes are causing serious long-term damage to Greek shipping.

#### USSR may join FAO this year

ROME (R) — The Soviet Union could join the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) by the end of this year, a Soviet envoy has said. "If our findings are positive, I don't see why we shouldn't exercise our right (to join FAO) by the end of the year," said Konstantin Ovchinnikov, vice-director of the Soviet foreign ministry's department of international economic organisations.



Print answer here: THE (circle 10 letters)

Saturday's Jumble: IMBUE FLORA WEASEL DOUBLY

Answer: What those newly hatched turtles were — BABES IN THE WOOD

(Answers tomorrow)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign aid has become a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Congressmen are asking President George Bush's administration: Where's the money?

Pressing domestic needs, changes in Eastern Europe, last year's invasion of Panama and a controversial proposal by Senator Robert Dole to slash money from Israel and Egypt have spotlighted foreign aid in 1990.

"There's going to be some rough sledding," said Senator Jim Sasser, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, noting the general unpopularity of foreign aid.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal newspaper and the U.S. television network NBC showed 71 per cent of Americans believe the United States spends too much on foreign aid. They supported aid, but were virtually split on helping Poland and opposed aid to East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Many lawmakers, including Senator Bob Kasten, a member of the Senate Committee that divides up foreign aid, and congressman David Obey, chairman of the House Foreign Operations

Appropriations Subcommittee, view cuts in defence — the so-called "peace dividend" — as the future cash cow for foreign aid.

"We can easily cut another \$10 billion to \$18 billion without jeopardizing security," said Senator Joseph Biden, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"There's a lot more to be done within the Defense Department."

Biden is one of a handful of Democratic senators who introduced a bill last week to channel \$500 million to Eastern Europe over five years.

Consequently, Sam Gejdenson said the defence budget should be cut in favour of foreign aid.

"There are times to buy bullets and times for other things," he said.

While the Bush administration last week proposed a \$14.8 billion foreign aid request for fiscal year 1991, about \$1 billion over the previous year, lawmakers still have unfinished business for fiscal year 1990.

Secretary of State James Baker has informed lawmakers the administration is planning to ask Congress for two supplemental aid packages for 1990, but he

hadn't told them where he wants to cut money so the budget will balance.

East Germany's currency is virtually useless outside the country and price subsidies eat up one-fifth of the annual budget. Western economists say these conditions must change if East Germany is to attract vital foreign capital and expertise.

The report, much of which had been leaked ahead of this week's publication in the Die Wirtschaft, gave further details of East German plans to rescue its tottering economy.

Coinciding with Prime Minister Hans Modrow's proposals for German reunification, it also indicated greater cooperation with Bonn, especially over the currency.

"Currency union with West Germany involving a relatively stable exchange rate could ensure the continuation of two currencies and allow either partial or full convertibility," Luft said.

The report said the government hoped to make the East

German mark convertible by 1992 or 1993, possibly pegging it to the powerful West German mark as a first step.

The head of the West German Bundesbank, Karl-Otto Poehl, has supported step-by-step currency reform and last week said he believed East Germany's economy could quickly boom if reforms proceed favourably. He is due to visit East Berlin Tuesday.

The West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel Friday called for faster moves towards German monetary union.

"To provide the East German people with an immediate and convincing hope for the future, the introduction of the (West German) mark as the official currency in East Germany could be necessary," Waigel said in a statement.

The alternative, favoured by the powerful West German central bank and leading economists, was to wait until East German economic productivity had improved.

Other goals included the introduction of climbing wage scales, and a tax reform — removing punishing rates for small private businesses — which were tolerated but not cherished by the Stalinist order that collapsed last autumn.

"Capacity constraints put a drag on Japanese exports, although they've started to expand production capacity lately," said Iwaki.

Japan imported more oil at higher prices in 1989, and that gave imports a boost, economists added. Imports last year totalled \$192.50 billion against \$164.75 billion in 1988.

Imports were also bolstered by the fact that some Japanese companies were able to meet domestic demand because of capacity limitations, said Berlow.

Some goods for export might have been shifted to the domestic market," said Chiharu Saito, an economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International.

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# Sports

## Graf wins Pan-Pacific Open

TOKYO (AP) — Steffi Graf Saturday avenged her defeat at last year's French Open by overwhelming Arantxa Sanchez to win the Tokyo Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament and her second straight victory.

Graf fired nine aces en route to beating the Spanish teenager 6-1, 6-2 on an artificial court at the number two Yoyogi National Stadium.

Graf, the world's top-ranked player, took home \$70,000 and Sanchez, ranked fifth in the world, earned \$31,500.

"I think this surface maybe isn't her favorite, since she is a clay court player," Graf said after the match before 3,000 people. "This surface fits me," she said.

Graf, who came to Tokyo after winning the Australian Open for the third consecutive year, said: "I played all the tournaments very well and had a good feeling and lots of confidence."

The 20-year-old West German

unleashed two aces in a row at the start of the first set, and went on to lose only one point in the first game.

Graf broke the second game, and fired two more aces in the third, which she won without losing a point.

In the second set, Graf deftly used passing shots to break Sanchez' serve in the first game after four deuces.

Sanchez led 40-15 in the second game, but her break point slipped away when Graf attacked with a smash.

The 18-year-old Sanchez said she did not expect the match, played on a fast surface, to go like the French Open final, when she defeated Graf 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5.

"(Graf) had very good first serves and forehands. She made less mistakes," Sanchez said after the match, adding that she had skipped the Australian Open and trained hard for this tournament.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANHAN HIRSH

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### WHO NEEDS KINGS?

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 10 4 2  
♦ 3 9 7 6  
♦ 8  
♦ 7

**WEST**  
♦ K Q 7  
♦ 10 5 3 2  
♦ 5 2  
♦ 4  
♦ J 10 6 5

**EAST**  
♦ J 8 3  
♦ Q 4  
♦ A K 10 8 7 3  
♦ Q 9 4  
♦ Q 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ 9 6 5  
♦ A K 8  
♦ Q J 9 4  
♦ Q 5 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ 2 ♦ 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦  
Here's another fine defensive hand from the recent European Championships in Turku, Finland. It arose in the Italy-Denmark match. The Danes, among the pre-tournament favorites, were challenging strongly for the title. To all intents and purposes, Italy was out of the running.

The bidding was short and sweet.

## DAVIS CUP TENNIS TOURNAMENT:

## Jordan loses again but Queen lauds team's courage

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the final round of the Davis Cup tennis tournament, Malaysia beat Jordan 5-0 in their Asia/Oceania zone, group two. Next, Malaysia will play Hong Kong in the quarterfinals scheduled to begin on March 30.

Kam Ka Vhei of Malaysia played Fouad Hammadi, in the first singles match held on Sunday and won 6-1, 6-2, 6-1. In the second match U. Murali Dharan of Malaysia led his team in another victory over Ayman Abu Jaber, ending the game with 6-4, 6-1. Both games reflected the Jordanian team's unrelentless efforts to play a good game till the end. In the opening matches of the tournament, which was spon-

sored by Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, the Malaysians took the lead by defeating Jordan in the two singles held Friday, and the doubles held on Saturday, thus advancing 3-0.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who attended the three-day tournament, was not discouraged by Jordan's defeat. "The players have played in this match all played with great deal of commitment, heart and courage," the Queen told the Jordan Times after the match. "They've really played very well, and I'm really proud of them."

Her Majesty Queen said that "we knew that our team was facing a very tough competition, and a much more professional team."

The Queen reflected on a be-

lief held by some that perhaps Jordan should not compete in international tournaments such as the Davis Cup tennis tournament, because of the Jordanian team's consecutive defeats, and said that she disagreed. "I think it's very important that we realize it takes time and hard work, and it's only through this process that we have competitive tennis players."

Her Majesty sounded very optimistic when she spoke about the younger generation of tennis players. "I am very excited about the young people who play tennis, and I can see in many of them great potential," the Queen said.

"If we can offer them the opportunities to play as much as possible in Jordan, then they will have more of an opportunity."

## President's political moves raise hopes for end of boycott

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The bold political concessions announced by President F.W. de Klerk will provide a major boost for efforts to end the sports boycott of South Africa, prominent sports administrators said Saturday.

"New doors will open for us," said Johan du Plessis, chairman

of the South African National Olympic Committee. "A lot more people will listen to what we have to say now."

Most of South Africa's major sports have been partially or completely cut off from international competition for 10 or more years in protest against the country's racial segregation policies.

Initially, the boycotts were imposed because of segregation on the playing field in South Africa, but the bans continued even after most major sports took steps to promote integration. Proponents of the boycotts said full sporting contacts should resume only when apartheid was dismantled at all levels,

## Queen Elizabeth closes games

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II brought the curtain down on the 14th Commonwealth Games Saturday after a final day that maintained the event's penchant for drama and controversy.

The queen ignored about 30 Maori protesters who arrived to watch the start of the track action at a sun-drenched Mt. Smart Stadium, then returned for the customary glittering pageant and fireworks display that ended the 11-day, 57-sport sports festival at dusk.

The race was won by England's Peter Elliott, who stepped out of the shadow of former rivals Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe to win his first major title.

Elliott, the Olympic silver medalist, hit the front with 400 meters to go and outpaced Wilder柿 Kiruchi of Kenya to win in 3:33.39. New Zealand's Peter O'Donoghue took the bronze.

"I'm just happy that I'm going away from here as Commonwealth champion," said Elliott, who also won the 800-meter silver medal at the 1987 World Championships.

"I've had two silver from major championships but the gold has always eluded me," the 27-year-old Englishman said. "I was always frightened I would retire from athletics never being a champion."

After his victory, Elliott went straight over to Walker and asked the New Zealander to share the lap of honour. Walker shook his head but Elliott insisted.

"I knew something had gone wrong," Elliott said. "I'm just pleased he could join me because the majority of people here today had come to see John Walker. I really admire him as a competitor."

Elliott's performance was so impressive that Coe, who withdrew from the event because of illness, might have struggled to keep up with the pace.

On Friday, Coe was forced to withdraw from the heats of what would have been the last race of his 14-year career.

The previous day, the 33-year-old Englishman managed only sixth place in the 800-meter final.

and went into retirement without a Commonwealth Games medal — the one major honour that had eluded him.

Walker's clash with Scammell was not the only black spot of the final day.

One of the stars of the games, 100-metre Olympic champion Linford Christie, boycotted part of the closing ceremony in protest over an appeal by three of 1,600-metre teams being turned down by the games' appeal jury.

The teams of England, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago were disqualified from Friday's heats because their baton changes had been outside the allowed area.

Christie was one of three English gold medalists selected to take part in the closing ceremony. But a press statement from the English team said the sprinter had declined to participate "although he recognises the honour which has been bestowed on him."

Team manager John Jeffery said it was Christie's decision not to take part.

"This is a decision for Linford to make as an individual. It is not a team decision," Jeffery said. "I will not force him to take part."

In the absence of three of the strongest teams, Kenya won the gold.

Christie's stand came after he had anchored the England team to victory in the 400-metre relay.

Overall, Australia won 162 medals, 52 of which were gold. England had 129 and 47 golds. Canada 113 with 35 golds. Of the 57 competing nations, 29 went home with at least one medal.

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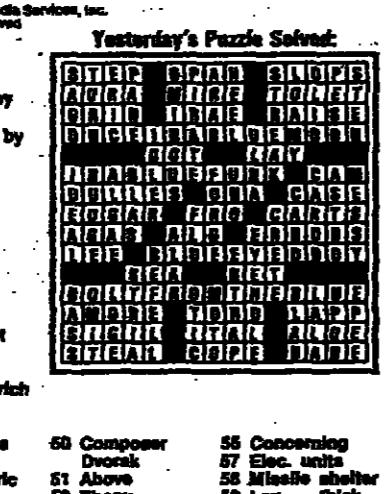
A Swatch WATCH!!

## THE Daily Crossword

by Victor Jember, Jr.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:



Cinema Tel: 625155

## RAINBOW

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

SUMMER SCHOOL

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



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## Thousands join rally ahead of key Moscow Communist meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people demanding radical reform marched towards the centre of Moscow Sunday as reformist groups from across the country turned up the pressure on the Kremlin to overhaul the Communist Party.

The march, sponsored by a broad range of progressive and national movements, comes on the eve of a crucial plenum of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

Proposals before the party's plenum include surrendering its constitutional stranglehold on power and expanding accountability to the people.

The government daily Izvestia warned that the Communist Party was facing its darkest days ever.

"The party is going through its most difficult time, perhaps the most difficult in its entire history," it said.

More than 10,000 people, many waving flags of the powerful Baltic popular fronts and carrying signs demanding more openness in the party, crossed the Kremlin bridge on a march to a public square, about two kilometres from the Kremlin.

Security forces stood by quietly as the crowd set off but most of the streets heading into the centre

were blocked with lorries and traffic police announced they planned to close much of the surrounding area.

"Down with article six," read one banner, a call for an end to the party's monopoly on power. "No to fascism in the USSR," "freedom to the Baltic republics," read others.

"I am afraid that tomorrow everything will remain the same," said marcher Faina Gordina.

"The only thing I want is to support those people who are trying to make our lives better. Democracy is the only way."

The once-banned national flags of the popular front mass movements of the Baltic republics mixed with the banners of other regional groups.

The Kremlin is facing a country increasingly in disarray, battered by the bloody clashes between rival Armenians and Azeris in the Soviet south, surging separation in three Baltic republics and a

crumbling economy.

More ominous for the Communist establishment is a growing tide of discontent in the giant Russian federation that has brought down a series of party leaders, a sign the republic's political apathy is coming to an end.

Party officials in the eastern city of Vladivostok, the Siberian oil centre of Tyumen and the southern city of Volgograd have been removed in recent weeks amid popular anger over corruption and the slow pace of reform.

The party newspaper Pravda Sunday suggested that disgraced Communist officials should face a strict accounting for their misdeeds, rather than simply be allowed to retire on fat pensions.

Those singled out included former ideology chief Mikhail Soslov, former Leningrad Party chief Grigory Romanov and one-time Moscow party boss Viktor Grishin. All were members of the Central Committee.

A new political executive committee would be created, with representatives from each of the 15 republics — an idea borrowed from Lithuanian party chief Algirdas Brazauskas. It was not clear, however, whether this body would replace the Politburo.

In a bid to counter the crisis, the party has paved the way for major reforms with a public relations campaign in the Soviet media.

Sunday newspapers devoted many columns to discussion of reform measures, including an

official proposal for direct elections of the delegates to the party congress in October.

The head of the Moscow higher party school was quoted as saying the next congress could be the party's last if greater democracy was not introduced.

A report by Radio Moscow's Interfax publication said the plenum Monday would debate a new platform of "humane democratic socialism."

The draft platform calls for a radical perestroika of the party, which will fight for its leading role, but assume no state or government power, nor lay any claim to having its role set down in the constitution. Interfax said.

Interfax also said the plan contained radical changes in the party structure, including the election of a chairman and two deputies and the creation of a streamlined 200-member Central Committee.

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## Scowcroft sees more global role for U.S. armed forces

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Saturday that U.S. forces in the future will be smaller but "more global" in their orientation.

Scowcroft also said U.S. policy for Europe is one of "continuity and change" to adapt to the massive transformations sweeping Eastern Europe.

But he added that the United States will remain a military power on the continent.

The national security adviser spoke at the annual Wehrkunde conference in Munich, which brings together security experts, lawmakers and government officials from NATO countries and Japan.

"America will remain engaged as a global power," Scowcroft said. "A part of the adjustment in our defense posture will be toward active forces that are smaller, more global in orientation."

He said such forces will have a

"degree of agility, readiness and sustainability appropriate to the demands of likely contingencies."

U.S. President George Bush has already proposed reducing superpower forces in Central Europe to 195,000 troops for each side.

That would mean a reduction of about 60,000 U.S. servicemen, most of them from West Germany, and cutting Soviet troops from their current level of 565,000.

Scowcroft did not spell out how U.S. forces would be poised to be "more global" in orientation.

The conference was held against the backdrop of vastly improved East-West relations and European integration that many predict will lead to German

"America will remain engaged as a global power," Scowcroft said. "A part of the adjustment in our defense posture will be toward active forces that are smaller, more global in orientation."

He said such forces will have a

"A stronger Europe could assume increased responsibilities for its own defence — and here, European defence cooperation could become more important within the alliance (NATO) framework," Scowcroft said.

"It's time for a European pillar to be built in the security field, now more so than ever."

There have been increasing questions about the U.S. role in a rapidly changing Europe.

Scowcroft addressed that point, saying: "It is the intention of the United States to remain engaged in Europe with a substantial military and political presence."

He continued: "We feel we are a European power with an abiding and permanent interest in Europe's security."

The Wehrkunde conference, despite its size and the attention it attracts, is designed as a forum for the participants to discuss defence issues candidly.

## Column 8

Thieves rob treasures at Herculaneum

NAPLES (AP) — Masked bandits bound and gagged guards at Herculaneum, a Roman city destroyed by the Vesuvius volcano in 79 A.D., and stole hundreds of treasures, including bronze statues, vases and jewelry, reports said. Baldassare Conticello, the superintendent of the archaeological areas of Herculaneum and nearby Pompeii, said the inventory of the stolen goods was still incomplete, the Italian News Agency (AGI) reported. But the missing items included about 200 gold bracelets and earnings, a 1st-century bronze vase in the form of a woman's head and a 60-cm-high (23-inch-high) silver and copper inlaid bronze statue of Bacchus, he said.

Scowcroft addressed that point, saying: "It is the intention of the United States to remain engaged in Europe with a substantial military and political presence."

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## Roh agrees on reforms

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo pledged with former opposition leaders Saturday to accelerate democratic reforms and release imprisoned dissidents, the presidential office announced.

The announcement said Roh agreed on democratic reforms, including an amnesty for those jailed for political protests, proposed by two former opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil in talks at Roh's office.

Roh and the two Kims also agreed to seek "steady democratic reforms" after forming a broad-based new conservative party by early April, it said.

In a move unprecedented in

South Korea's constitutional history, Roh announced last week that his governing party will merge with the nation's second and third opposition groups.

Roh's Democratic Justice Party was dissolved Thursday, and Kim Young-Sam's Reunification Democratic Party announced its dissolution Monday.

The presidential announcement did not say how many prisoners will be freed, but said the government would consider releasing "as many as possible."

No government figures were available, but dissidents claim there are about 1,000 dissidents, students, workers and others imprisoned for political activity.

Dissidents and radical students have vowed to launch a civil drive against the three-party merger, calling it a scheme by a military dictatorship to prolong its power.

The merger will change South Korea's faction-ridden, four-party political structure by widening the base of the governing group and dwarfing the largest opposition party led by Kim Dae-Jung.

No agreement has been reached on how to compose the new party's leadership and hierarchy. Party officials said talks were under way on changing the nation's current presidential government system into a parliamentary structure.

McCartney: Beatles reunion possible

DETROIT (R) — Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney has said that there may be a reunion for the three surviving members of the band. McCartney told a news conference some form of collaboration was possible after the conclusion of a 20-year legal battle over royalties between himself, former Beatles George Harrison and Ringo Starr and Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, who was shot outside his Manhattan home in December 1980.

"There's a couple of projects that are possible," he said. McCartney did not provide specific details but did not say whether he and his bandmates discussed the idea of a reunion with Ringo or George. McCartney, his wife, Linda, and a four-member band are in Detroit to start the North American leg of a 1990 world tour, his first since 1976.

On the tour McCartney has been playing some Beatle hits such as Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and Let It Be for the first time in many years. He said he just felt the time was right. "When the Beatles broke up it was really difficult. A bit like a divorce — you don't want to pay the material of the ex-wife... it's a question of getting back to the songs or ignoring them for the rest of my life. It's just the right time to come back to this stuff," he said.

U.K. drops 666 from licence plates

LONDON (AP) — The number 666 has been dropped from British car license plates because some believe it is a symbol of Satan, traffic authorities said Friday. The decision followed several incidents in which drivers claimed to be jinxed by the 666 in their number plates, explained Jeff Munden, senior executive officer of the policy branch of the government's Driving and Licensing Centre (DVLIC). "It's not that we as an organization give any credence to this, but we don't want to be inadvertently causing real distress to people," he said in a telephone interview from the centre's headquarters in Swanscombe, Wales.

Global weather (major world cities)

NEW YORK — Salman Rushdie, in hiding for nearly a year since the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered his death, said in an interview published Saturday that he misses ordinary pleasures like driving a car and going to the cinema.

"I've always been a big movie addict and I haven't been in the cinema for a year. I haven't driven a car for a year, and I love to drive. What I miss are these tiny things," he said.

He also said he was upset with his publisher, Viking Penguin, for not issuing a paperback version of the Satanic Verses, something he said would have normally been done this winter.

"If we do not complete the cycle of publication, we will in some sense have been defeated by the campaign against the book.

He said he hoped that in giving him a visa for the first time since 1979, South Africa was sending "yet another signal of a commitment to openness."

In London, Jackson was visiting black cultural groups Saturday, and on Monday he meets with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

## Rushdie 'misses' ordinary life

NEW YORK (R) — Salman Rushdie, in hiding for nearly a year since the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered his death, said in an interview published Saturday that he misses ordinary pleasures like driving a car and going to the cinema.

Rushdie apologised the death order stood. The Indian-born author went into hiding in Britain on Feb. 14.

Khomeini died last June 3 but Iran did not lift the order and Rushdie has remained in hiding under the protection of Britain's special branch.

He has written several book reviews and essays but declined interviews with the media until he agreed to call Newsweek from his hiding place.

In the interview, Rushdie said that what he misses most is "ordinary life: Walking down the street, browsing in a bookstore,

going to a movie.

"I've always been a big movie addict and I haven't been in the cinema for a year. I haven't driven a car for a year, and I love to drive. What I miss are these tiny things," he said.

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"If we do not complete the cycle of publication, we will in some sense have been defeated by the campaign against the book.

He said he hoped that in giving him a visa for the first time since 1979, South Africa was sending "yet another signal of a commitment to openness."

In London, Jackson was visiting black cultural groups Saturday, and on Monday he meets with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

## 21 killed as violent windstorm hits France

PARIS (AP) — A violent windstorm buffeted much of northern France, killing at least 21 people, cutting rail service to several areas, disrupting air traffic and causing heavy damage.

Winds as high as 168 kilometres per hour tore across Brittany Saturday, Normandy and the Paris region, ripping off roofs, blowing trees and electric lines across railways and roads and cutting off electric service to more than two million people.

Among the buildings damaged was the 12th century cathedral at Quimper, in Brittany, a 64-year-old man was blown from his roof as he tried to repair the rain gutter. Another man died in similar fashion at Ergue-Gaberic, also in Brittany, falling from his roof as he was fixing his television antenna.

A motorcyclist was killed in the city of Moulins when he was hit in the head by a flying tree branch, and a truck driver died when a gust turned over his vehicle in the Ille-et-Vilaine region.

Eleven people died in the Paris region, according to authorities.

Wind uprooted a tree and blew it onto the roof of a house in Villecresnes. Three people in the house were injured. One of them, a woman, later died.

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